



NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future



NEMS NEWS

January 2011



“THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT”

*Each month we will spotlight an employee or
topic of interest at the NIH.*

Our spotlight is shining this month on the NIH Chief Sustainability Officer, Colleen Barros. She was recently designated to this position and she would like to share with you her views on greening the campus and NIH sustainability:

During the last several years I have watched as the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS) and its Green Initiatives have spread throughout our NIH campuses and ICs, involving more and more employees and achieving greater environmental results and cost savings each year. HHS recently released the HHS Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan which provides the goals we will need to focus on to move NIH along its Sustainability Path. I have been designated as the NIH Chief Sustainability Officer. Dan Wheeland has been designated as the NIH Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer.

In the coming months you will see greater urgency with respect to NIH's movement in a more sustainable direction. As our research positions itself to understand and mitigate the health impacts of climate change, so must NIH position itself to understand and mitigate the greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts that result from all of our day-to-day work activities and to share best practices with one another in order to achieve the many sustainability initiatives and to reduce our overall greenhouse gas emissions.

I would like to thank each of you for your hard work on the NIH Goes Greener program and for your involvement in your IC Green Team Initiatives. I look forward to working with you as we continue to move in a more sustainable direction.

For more information:

www.nems.nih.gov

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NIH Green Highlights for 2010:

- Record numbers participated in Earth Day activities.
- America Recycles Day and Recycling Competition.
- Cafeterias have replaced most of the plastic such as cups and food containers with compostable paper or bio-based alternatives.
- Automated Program to remotely enable Energy Star computers- Turns off computers and monitors at the end of the workday. = 60,000 desktop computers and monitors x (\$27) \$1.6 million in energy costs a year.
- Approximately 40% of our waste (16,000 lbs/day) is recycled.
- 5300 employees participate in transhare.
- Building recycling – all construction debris is recycled.
- Energy consumption has been reduced 28% since 2003.
- Children's Inn, Family Lodge, Parking Garages Project - 182,792 savings from lighting, HVAC, and water upgrades.
- IC Green Team and Sustainable Lab Accomplishments include:
 - NIH Paper Free Day
 - Lights Out Campaign
 - Mini Fairs for the greening of the labs.



Upcoming Events and Meetings

Green Team Leads Council Meeting

Wednesday January 19th 1:00-3:00
Bldg 31/6C Room 7

Sustainable Labs Working Group

Wednesday January 26th 1:30-2:30
Bldg 50 Room 1227/1233

